

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00122 270913Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /099 W
-----050810 280138Z /62

R 261630Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6649
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUNMISSION NEW YORK 1600

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0122

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: PINT,SHUM,SF
SUB: SAG DENIES RESIDENCE PERMIT EXTENSION TO IRISH CATHOLIC
PRIEST AND SETS DEPARTURE DEADLINE

SUMMARY: SAG HAS DENIED APPLICATION OF FATHER RICHARD
O'RIORDAN, A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST IN GUGULETU TOWNSHIP,
FOR A PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT AND HAS GIVEN HIM UNTIL
FEBRUARY 10 TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. CARDINAL MCCANN HAS
PROTESTED HIS EXPULSION. END SUMMARY

1. FATHER RICHARD O'RIORDAN, AN IRISH CITIZEN, ROMAN
CATHOLIC PRIEST IN GUGULETU TOWNSHIP AND MEMBERS OF THE
MINISTERS FRATERNAL OF CAPE TOWN'S THREE BLACK TOWNSHIPS,
HAS BEEN ORDERED TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA BY FEBRUARY 10.
O'RIORDAN HAS WORKED IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING THE LAST 10
YEARS ON A TEMPORARY PERMIT THAT WAS RENEWED PERIODICALLY.
UPON MOST RECENT EXPIRATION HE WAS TOLD IT WOULD NOT BE
RENEWED, HIS APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE WAS
DENIED AND HE WAS GIVEN 21 DAYS (UNTIL FEB.10) TO LEAVE
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THE COUNTRY.

2. CARDINAL OWEN MCCANN OF CAPE TOWN TOLD PRESS HE WAS
"SHOCKED" BY THE ACTION AND HAD TAKEN IT UP WITH THE
AUTHORITIES TO ATTEMPT TO GET DECISION REVERSED. AS
USUAL IN SUCH CASES, NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR DENIAL OF
RESIDENCE PERMIT BUT IT WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY DUE TO HIS

ACTIVIST ROLE AS MEMBER OF THE MINISTERS FRATERNAL. IN JULY LAST YEAR HE WAS FINED AND GIVEN SUSPENDED JAIL SENTENCE FOR PUBLICATION OF "UNDESIRABLE" DOCUMENTS (CAPE TOWN 1149), AND IN SEPTEMBER WAS CONVICTED AND GIVEN NOMINAL FINE FOR CONTRAVENING RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT IN ATTENDING MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RIOT VICTIMS (CAPE TOWN 1215 AND A-65). LATTER CONVICTION WAS APPEALED AND IS DUE TO BE HEARD IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. A CHURCH SPOKESMAN TOLD CONGENOFF MATTER HAS SO FAR BEEN TAKEN UP AT "ADMINISTRATIVE" LEVEL WITH NO REPLY TO DATE. HE DID NOT KNOW IF IT WOULD BE APPEALED TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN CASE OF REFUSAL BUT HE ASSUMED IT WOULD BE. HE DID NOT SEEM SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS, HOWEVER, AND SAID O'RIORDAN'S DEPARTURE WOULD BE A "SEVERE LOSS" TO THE CHURCH.

WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CATHOLICS, EXPULSION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0998
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780121/aaaaarfh.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b24709e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3712101
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG DENIES RESIDENCE PERMIT EXTENSION TO IRISH CATHOLIC PRIEST AND SETS DEPARTURE DEADLINE SUMMARY: SAG HAS DENIED APPLICATION OF FATHER RICH
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b24709e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014